

# Arts in the Parks

## Indiana Dunes State Park Property Profile

**Website:** <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm>

### Key Messages/Stories:

- Lake Michigan is a natural treasure that impacts the lives of its residents and visitors in many ways. Its fishery is constantly changing.
- Sand dunes are unique to our area and are dynamic in nature. Sand dune formation is a very slow process. It has taken thousands of years for our large sand dunes to form! Former lake levels have created a series of dune ridges at differing distances from our current beach. Plants growing on the dunes stabilize the sand and hold it in place. Sand dunes that are not stabilized by plants slowly move inland as the winds blow. Sand dunes are easily eroded. People walking on the dunes can quickly erode away what has taken thousands of years to form.
- The diverse plant and animal life makes the Indiana Dunes an amazing place to observe ecological processes. The Indiana Dunes region is known as the “The birthplace of ecology” because of vegetative studies conducted here at the turn of the last century. These studies gave rise to the principles of succession. The wide range of habitats found in the park provides homes for many species of plants and animals. The bird migration along Lake Michigan is especially noteworthy. During migration, many species of birds are “funneled” over the southern tip of Lake Michigan, making the Indiana Dunes Region a great place to watch birds.
- People can make a difference; this park is here as a result of the efforts of many people. Indiana Dunes State Park was opened in 1925 as a result of the efforts of many individuals and groups of people. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, which surrounds the state park, was dedicated in 1966. Efforts that individuals and groups of people make today can ensure that the resources within.

### Top Five Things to Do:

- Hike Trail 9 through the rolling dune blowouts.
- Visit the Nature Center or take part in an interpretive program.
- Spend an afternoon being lazy on the beach.
- Take a moonlit ski or snowshoe journey after a lake effect event.
- Capture some shots of a magnificent Lake Michigan sunset.

**Lodging:** 140 site electric campground. Youth tent primitive camping. Lodging options available in local community, off property.

**General visitor profile:** campers (weekends or weeklong); day-users for picnics and hiking; visiting the nature center; school groups in spring/summer; scout and other groups for volunteer service; groups in the group camps; families in the family cabins. Beach-goers.

### Potential arts venues:

- Lakefront Beach- large area, no shelter from elements, occasional loud noise from waves. Winds can be an issue.



- Wilson Shelter- Inside and outside area. Fireplace. Holds up to 100 inside, more outside. Electric available.
- Nature Center- auditorium holds 80 comfortably. Electric, heat/ac, wi-fi. Av capabilities.
- Nature Center program area. Holds 50, outdoor setting. No electric. Fire ring and picnic tables.

**Visitation in FY2014:** 1.2 million visitors

**Nearby Communities:** Chesterton, Porter, Portage, Burns Harbor, Beverly Shores, The Pines, Michigan City, Valparaiso, Gary, Miller, Westville, Merrillville, Crown Point, Hammond, Highland, Munster, Hebron, Kouts, East Chicago, Schererville, St. John, Wanatah Winfield, New Buffalo, MI

Please email questions to [Artsintheparks@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:Artsintheparks@dnr.IN.gov).

